

DEBRIEFING OF FRANCIS GARY POWERS

Tape: #5
Date: 14 February 1962
Time: 1631

Present: Mr. Cunningham
Mr. Powers

Cunningham: On this question of the military implications of your equipment for example your personal equipment, did they raise any question about where was the U. S. Air Force insignia on your helmet or any of that business?

Powers: No

Cunningham: Did they know it had been painted or -

Powers: They didn't say anything about it so apparently - apparently they didn't notice it wasn't there or should have been there or - but

Cunningham: How about your 1173 card, your Air Force civilian identification card?

Powers: I had it with me.

Cunningham: Did they - well, this said on it that you were DA civ I think.

Powers: This is Department of the Air Force civilian, right.

Cunningham: Did they ever try to make anything of that in the course of the discussions, as to why you were carrying such a card as that?

Powers: Yes, they wanted to know why.

Cunningham: What was your answer to that?

Powers: Let's see, how did this go. They - See I had told them before that - that I was CIA and they asked me what this card was, Department of the Air Force civilian, what did all this mean? And I told them that it was just a card that I had to have in order to be on the military base.

Cunningham: I see.

Powers: And they asked two or three times about this but that's the only thing I told them as far as I can - Let's see, what else did I have there.

Cunningham: You had a pawn ticket I remember from a - not a pawn ticket, what am I saying a you know a watch claim ticket or something from a shop in England as I recall.

Powers: Me ?

Cunningham: At least they had amongst the exhibits a little claim check which was supposed to have been from a watch repair shop or something in England.

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1
TOP SECRET

Powers: No, I ~~h~~never had a watch in a shop in England.

Cunningham: Is that right? Do you recall that by any chance ~~xxx~~ John?

25X1

[redacted] No, there was an automobile storage ticket that the ah-

Powers: Oh yes, that was in -

25X1

[redacted] Yah - where you'd put your machines.

Powers: Uh - hum

Cunningham: Yah, here it is right here, this card which is something or other East Anglican Jewellers Wholesale Company.

Powers: Oh yes ah-

Cunningham: Yah, a calling card I guess you'd call it.

Powers: Uh - huh. I didn't even know I had that. I've had that thing for many years. I went to England once in 1954 I think it was and

Cunningham: They didn't try to link that with the - any kind of -

Powers: Oh they asked me about England.

Cunningham: Uh - huh.

Powers: And ah I told them I'd been through there several times.

Cunningham: Uh - Huh.

Powers: And ah but they never ~~xxx~~ referred to this card, but I picked that up at the - there at one time ago when I was

25X1

[redacted]
Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1
TOP SECRET

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1
TOP SECRET

Powers: there because they had some jewelry that I hoped to be able to afford one of these days and I carried it around I guess all this time and forgot about it.

Interr: What was this one?

Cunningham: This is the 1173 card.

Interr: I see. Yah.

Cunningham: Ah - it's like this ~~xx~~ one here. Here's one. This is what it looks under when it isn't chewed up. See this would - this presumes - ah - we followed the same pattern here of AF/civ or DAFC one or the other.

Powers: It was DAFC.

Cunningham: Yah.

Powers: Um - hum.

Cunningham: This was a fairly recent one but ah - ~~xxx~~ Yah 1960 ah -

Powers: I didn't know that I had any Turkish -

Cunningham: It's amazing what ah what ah

Powers: And I wouldn't have had that many dollars but ah had a ~~pok~~ poker game the night before and won.

Cunningham: How unusual. You even had Perry ~~xx~~ huh?

Powers: No, we were upstairs but ah -

Cunningham: Did they ask you about any of the US Air Force ah

25X1

TOP SECRET
Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1

25X1

Cunningham: operations personalities ~~xxxx~~ who had been through there ?

In other words -

Powers: Yes they ah -

Cunningham: Senior people

Powers: they did and I mentioned ah ah it happened I think around Christmas when ah ah someone some general made an inspection tour and I mentioned that ~~they~~ they'd been to the base I think Cardinal Spellman was ~~xxxxxx~~ there too and I mentioned that ah

Cunningham: The Cardnial jumped about eight feet off the ground that day I remember.

Powers: Yah.

Cunningham: Came down in his own defense. It's understandable.

Powers: I don't know. I figured that they had the information already and but I didn't know.

Cunningham: In the ah course of this did they seem at all interested in any of the organization within the agency. Ah did they ask you for example was this project organized within the agency in any way ah that you were aware of. In other words, the divisional side of - the headquarters.

Powers: They wanted to know where the meetings with ah - when

Powers: I was recruited and so forth took place.

Cunningham: Uh - huh.

Powers: Ah, I told them that everything took place in hotels and motels -

Cunningham: Um - hum.

Powers: And ah -

Cunningham: I mean in the Washington area did they say is there any single headquarters in the Washington area where all - - - for this project goes on?

Powers: Not that way, but they wanted to know - they ~~wantedxxxx~~ were wanting ~~xxxx~~ me to give them a place where I was recruited and talked to these people and got all the information and got the job and so forth and I told them it was all in hotels. They wanted to know the names of the hotels and ~~I~~ I told ~~them~~ them well there were several trips and I couln't remember the names. I mentioned Dupont Plaza and I don't know, I think I only mentioned one because I couldn't remember any other hotel names except the Roger Smith and that was too close.

Cunningham: Did they ever focus on 1717 H?

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1
TOP SECRET

Powers: Never said a word.

Interr: Jim, what are your plans for tonight?

Cunningham: I'm loose. I'm which ever way you want to play what?

Interr: Well, do you want the boys to get you a hotel?

Cunningham: Yah, I think so ah - not knowing how you all were shaped up up here ah - I'd sort of thought I might. I'll tell you why, for this reason. I had spoken to the group, the rest of the boys and said I would be here when they arrived so that in affect I could say what I had covered without - in a few words, you know. I'd shake their hands, and I'd go and they'd stay. You know.

Interr: We have several down at the [redacted] We can 25X1 have them add another.

Cunningham: All right. I spoke to [redacted] and he - and I asked him this and he said at such time as I made up my mind to stay would I please tell him through one of you and then he would arrange through ~~xxxxxx~~ the - bureau he calls it here to have a reservation made.

Now I don't know how that fits with what you're -

Interr: Well, we can do that, or we can do it direct.

Cunningham: Well, --- you're the boss on that.

25X1

[redacted]
TOP SECRET

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1

Interr: I'll have - get in touch.

Cunningham: Ah - did they - outside of - let's put it this way, did they ever ask you within the agency on the terms of the entire U2 project operation ah - you know who was the big brain as far as planning the missions and thinking up the whole business ?

Powers: Well see I told them that ah - No, I just said that the missions came from somewhere else and ah - they didn't harp on that too much it didn't seem ~~like~~ like. Ah - let's see what was it I was thinking of? There was something I intended to say there and I've forgotten it.

Cunningham: Well, is it in connection with these things here?

Powers: But I don't know if it's in connection with this or -

Cunningham: Did they ask you -

Powers: Oh oh yah - I told them the contact was Mr. Collins which was absolutely correct because that was

when I first met ~~xxxx~~ him.

Cunningham: Yah, I know. He ah - when that came out over the ticker - he ah swallowed his gum about three times. He said "god dammit didn't know he'd remember that".

Powers: I didn't figure that would do him any ~~xxxxx~~ harm.

TOP SECRET

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1
TOP SECRET

Cunningham: No.

Powers: And I told them that he did most all the contacts, all the recruiting and all the talking and -

Cunningham: Did they get down - did - amongst these various people concerned with the operation did they get down to the business of asking for descriptions, visible descriptions of any of them?

Powers: Yes, they wanted descriptions of this Mr. Collins but ah - I hadn't seen him in many years. They wanted a description of Shelton and ah -

Cunningham: Course all they had to do was wait, we very happily obliged them by printing his ~~exact~~ picture in the newspaper.

Powers: Would his picture have been in the newspaper if -

Cunningham: I don't know, it's hard to say. I think it would have been for this reason that ah - ah as soon as this thing broke the news media descended on the base.

Powers: That's what I thought would happen.

Cunningham: Ah - oh - they came down from Istanbul you know, CBS, NBC, and so forth and ah -

Powers: I ~~gix~~ figured they would have much -

25X1 Cunningham: He - he and [redacted] did all the talking, that is to

25X1

[redacted]
TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1

Cunningham: the press and saying well he isn't here and you'll have to get your answer from Washington and so forth. But they had their names, they had Shelton's name associated with 10-10 ah - as early as the 5th of May as I recall which was the first - the day of the ~~Kazakhstan~~ rebellion by Khrushchev you see.

Powers: Um - hum. Well did he - when he revealed this did he mention Shelton's name or did they have the name before ?

Cunningham: Ah - No, it was ah - I don't - that wasn't even included the whole emphasis was on you you see. So that this came out subsequently and the major play on his ~~sex~~ name came in the course of the trial as I recall. If I - Your memory is pretty good on this John, is that fairly as you recall it ?

That's right.

Cunningham: Yah. Ah - on the 10-10 thing did they give you any kind of a quiz on the organization? Why in the hell did - was it called 10-10 ?

Powers: Yah, they wanted to know why it was 10-10 and ah ah I just told them that ah - well I didn't know why it was

Powers: called 10-10. I say that each organization on a base has different designations and I just happened to be 10-10.

Cunningham: Yah.

Powers: And actually I don't even know why it is.

Cunningham: There's an answer to that but it's so damn long and complicated and it's so far behind me now that I'm not sure that I could pull it out. But the basic denominator for -- was 10.

Powers: I know of the base -

Cunningham: And then you have 10-1, 10- so and so through 10. Each ten of unit on the base had a different -

Powers: But it was 10 dash something or another -

Cunningham: Ours is 10-10 -- the way it worked out. Did they go - well - Did you get quizzed on the other types of aircraft that the base had --

Powers: Yah, they wanted to know about what I had seen there. They asked for particular types, too. They asked if there were any B-47's, they asked if there were any I think they called them RB 130s. And I told them that I had seen some B-47s and had seen some C-130s, but as far as I know a 130 couldn't be an RB because its a

Powers: cargo aircraft. But ah - Let's see.

Cunningham: Did they go into the question of whether these various detachments were permanent or temporary or -

Powers: No, they didn't ~~ask~~ ask about that.

Cunningham: Uh - huh.

Powers: And that's as well as I can remember.

Cunningham: Sure, sure.

Powers: They asked me if I knew ah ah the names of people in some of these other detachments and I said no --

Cunningham: Um - hum.

Powers: In fact after my trial just before I went to ~~Vladimir~~ they called me in to see if I could recognize some photographs of ah ah McKone and Olmstead.

Cunningham: Um - hum.

Powers: But I had never seen either one of them before that I could remember and they gave me a group of photographs and I couldn't pick out anyone. And ah - just a very short time there I can't remember what all they asked. I remember I did tell them that ah that I thought they were lying about shooting this aircraft down over Soviet territory.

Cunningham: Um - hum.

Interr: You say group of photographs, other Americans besides ?

Powers: Well, there were just photographs, I don't know what nationality.

Cunningham: How many would you say there were offhand ?

Powers: I think there were four photographs.

Cunningham: Uh - huh. Did they identify all of them to you or just -

Powers: No, they never did. They just wanted to know if I knew any of these people and I never did know which one was which. But I thought I recognized the Americans, I don't know. But I told them I'd never seen any of them.

Cunningham: Were these guys in American uniforms or were they -

Powers: No, they had civilian clothes on.

Cunningham: Uh - huh. Russian type civilian clothes would you say or -

Powers: Let's see. Well I don't know, I think ah there was at least one of the photographs with a tie but I don't know if the man had a coat. And I think the rest of them had the collar open, and I can't remember ~~whether~~ whether - I believe a white shirt, I'm not sure.

Cunningham: Um - hum. I gather you might have, it seems to me I sort of got the -- on this thing. But the timing on that,

Cunningham: when did that happen? That was what July?

Powers: First of July.

Cunningham: Ah - the ah - you had heard of this incidence I gather, had you not?

Powers: At the trial

Cunningham: Oh.

Powers: First time. It surprises - it was really a surprise to me.

Cunningham: You - I don't know whether I recall this correctly or not, you've already said - you explained their interest in the communications both air-borne and others ah - was there a great deal of interest on their part in the composition for example of the detachment security force. How many security officers did you have and that sort of thing?

Powers: They asked a bunch of questions about that which I had no information on because I really didn't know how many there was. I told them that the ~~xx~~ gate was guarded ah - which I'm sure they knew it would be ah - that only our detachment personnel came into our detachment and ah - it was the same all over the base, we couldn't go into anyone elses and -

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1
TOP SECRET

Cunningham: And did they ask such things as do they carry guns and all that sort of thing?

Powers: Yes they did, uh - huh. And I told them the guard at the gate and they wanted to know what kind, and I think I told them a pistol. They wanted to know if there were any tommy guns or rifles. I believe they said tommy guns, I'm not sure. Ah - and as far as I knew there wasn't. Ah - how it was arranged and I told them a fence around it.

Cunningham: Um - hum.

Powers: Ah - they wanted to know the different - the ah - ~~walk~~ what do you call it, the organization detachment and I told them the maintenance section, administrative section, ah - security section, special equipment section, I told them those things because I assumed they would know that there was anyway.

Cunningham: Um - hum.

Powers: Ah - Let's see.

Cunningham: Let me know if you get tired Frank, because I don't want to push you.

Powers: No, no I'm trying to think. I can't think of it all right now.

25X1

TOP SECRET
Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1
TOP SECRET

Powers: That's about all there is.

Cunningham: Did they seem at all interested in the base commander down there?

Powers: It seems to me they wanted to know who he ~~was~~ was, I ~~never~~ don't remember. And if they did ask a question I'm sure I told them that ah -

Cunningham: Well you can get that -- you saved your phone book --

Powers: Yah. But it seems like they didn't. In fact, I'm almost positive.

Cunningham: One question that has been of very general but at the same time very specific interest to us was the amount of questioning they may have asked you regarding the kind of training you got in the aircraft. Ah - as far as the number of hours you put in on flight training ah - the conditions under which this ~~gxx~~ training was conducted, the ah location of the training base, ah any special things of - of you know that dealt with the physical location ~~like~~ at Watertown or that dealt with the people that trained you to fly the airplane. Did they get into the question of - for example

[redacted] 47th group you know --

25X1

25X1

TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1

25X1

Powers: No, they never mentioned that.

Cunningham: How extensively did they question you on the training phase and the training base?

Powers: They went over it ~~fairly~~ fairly good. They - questioning and I told them that I didn't know exactly where it was but it was on this reservation there. Ah -

Cunningham: I mean did they ask ~~you~~ you how you got in and out. Did you fly in, walk in, drive in that sort of thing or -

Powers: I don't remember. Let's see. I really don't remember whether they ah covered that or not.

Cunningham: Did they ask you for what kind of installation it was in terms of how many buildings, what kind of runways, or did they just seem to be more interested in knowing that you did train ~~in some place~~ at some place?

Powers: Seems like to me they did ask me about these things, but I couldn't recall at the time and I can't right now how many buildings there was and I told them it was a lake, dry lake.

Cunningham: Did they seem at all interested in any kind of - how you got into the place, by special permission of somebody or ah -

Powers: No, they didn't seem interested in that. This is as well as I can remember and maybe later I can think of something that will tie in. But as well as I can remember that wasn't mentioned.

Cunningham: Did they get into the question of any personalities in the training phase that you might have come in contact with like say Kelly Johnson or -

Powers: They didn't ask - they didn't mention any ~~xx~~ names, I think they asked for people's names but I have a very hard time remembering people's names anyway so ah -

Cunningham: How convenient.

Powers: I don't remember, it seems like to me that they weren't so much interested in the training of learning to fly the airplane, but the intelligence training that I had gotten.

Cunningham: I see.

Powers: And ah I told them that I had never received any intelligence training. That I was just a pilot contractor. And I didn't mention that I had been through this ah ah course down ---- They don't know about that ---

Cunningham: Did they quiz you on that in connection with the special

Cunningham: equipment in your survival packet. I mean the twenty two -

Powers: They - oh that twenty two. They went over item by item what was this for and what's this used for. They came out - you know these little fire starters for igniting wet wood, it was an incinerator device with the ~~ing~~inuation that you can set fires to buildings with it and so forth and this twenty two ah

Cunningham: Was used to kill women and babies with I suppose --

Powers: Well, it was for ~~xxxxxx~~ assassination, but I could never convince them that the only thing I wanted that gun for was to hunt with.

Cunningham: Hunt quietly with.

Powers: Yah. That's what I tried to tell them but even during the trial this judge interrupted me I think when I was trying to explain that I only intended to use that gun to hunt with and he mentioned that I can't do much hunting at 25 meters or something like that.

Cunningham: ~~Hay~~ Yah, I remember that.

Powers: But ah - they wanted to know why I didn't bring a rifle for hunting and I told them that you couldn't carry a rifle in the cockpit of an airplane.

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1
TOP SECRET

Cunningham: At least you didn't have that hand cannon that [redacted] 25X1

25X1

[redacted] used to have --

Powers: Oh I'm very very thankful I didn't have this little 38
with the special ammunition.

Cunningham: Yah ----. That had been - by the way, were you
aware of that John? That special ammunition?

25X1

[redacted] Yah.

Cunningham: I know that was one of the things we were jumping on
the day afterwards or so ah with the special rounds in
it you know the 38 --

Powers: See they didn't seem to press this twenty two too much
because -

Cunningham: Did they ever ask you if you were going to use it to
kill yourself with?

Powers: No, I don't think so, I don't think they did. I don't
remember them asking me that; I don't think so. Ah
of course the pin, the needle and the pin they -

Cunningham: What ever became of that silver dollar, we never could
figure out?

Powers: I threw it away.

Cunningham: What on the way down?

25X1

[redacted]
TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1
[redacted]

20 25X1

Powers: Uh - huh ---

Cunningham: Oh I see, gee you were a busy guy. -----

Powers: I was trying to think of things and I couldn't think very well at all.

Cunningham: How did the needle stay then? Did that come out of it?

Powers: Well I unscrewed the little ring that was screwed in the top of the cork and poured it out in my hand, threw the dollar ~~wk~~ away, and put the - dropped it in my pocket thinking that even if they did see it, it's just a pin that - but when they found it they immediately were very pleased. Seemed like that they suspected something like that, and they sort of examined me there before they did find it for - They looked in my mouth, my ears, my hair, and even made me drop my trousers and -

Cunningham: And inspected your ~~xxxxx~~ rectum and so ~~forth~~ forth

Powers: Yah, then they --

Cunningham: Course they've seen what happened at Nuremberg.

Powers: I had that pin for several hours until I got to Sverdlovsk and I thought maybe I could have kept it longer but this one man found it in the pocket and they made me take

Powers: all my clothes off there. They searched the clothes two or three times and on about the third time they found it.

Cunningham: You mean looking for special things sewed in the linings and stuff.

Powers: Yah, they felt all around the collars and -

Cunningham: ~~xxx~~ Who were the people who did the searching? Were they police types or -

Powers: Well they ~~xxx~~ were military I think. They - well many people there have uniforms.

Cunningham: Yah, just like England.

Powers: But there seemed to be no - as I noticed the civil police in Moscow, there was none of that kind of uniforms at all, the military type uniforms.

Cunningham: One thing that we were trying to get a make on that particular day through various and sundry sources was how soon after you had arrived at Sverdlovsk did the special ~~xxxxxx~~ aircraft come to get you?

Powers: It wasn't a special aircraft.

Cunningham: It wasn't a special ~~xxxxxx~~ aircraft.

Powers: It was a commercial aircraft.

Cunningham: It was, really? What kind, do you recall?

Powers: A twin jet ah I don't what it's called but ah the -

Cunningham: The big, great big mother wasn't it?

Powers: No, it was a twin engine jet - the first Soviet jet aircraft, airline I think. I'm sure it wasn't a special aircraft because we were in a little compartment to ourselves but they were ah ah other people in the back.

Cunningham: You mean like passengers.

Powers: And it was just ah it was oh 30 minutes or an hour after. Well I don't know -----

Cunningham: The reason being that we had ~~xxxx~~ attempted to establish through the embassy in Moscow which we thought we had done - there's a special air mission group ~~xxxxx~~ there in Moscow which flies the important people around and that afternoon the embassy had reported that they had discovered the - one of these aircraft that is normally there, a special air mission airplane was gone and it - they discovered it having returned again that evening and by virtue of calculating when they first missed it and when it came back they had

Cunningham: ~~xxxxx~~ estimated that it had been dispatched up to Sverdlovsk because it was T 104 as I recall which is a -

Powers: Well I don't know what -

Cunningham: big - this is a great big ~~bloody~~ bloody airplane that - this - bigger than ~~xx~~ a 707.

Powers: Well I haven't seen it so I ---

Cunningham: Ah well you know like a ----

Powers: But ah - it's the one -

Cunningham: If you had to estimate how many people it ~~would carry~~ carried what would your guess have been?

Powers: Well they had three seats on at least one side and I think maybe two on the other I'm not sure and this compartment had seats here, three seats here, three seats here and a table in the middle and I think there were only two seats ah the row of seats was two seats wide on the other side and we were right up near the front of the compartment.

Cunningham: That's a fairly standard configuration.

Powers: Ah there was a stewardess on the airplane and the pilot was not in military uniform or anything but ah-

Cunningham: --- in other words.

Powers: And they kept the curtain pulled but there were a lot of people in the back. When they ~~p~~ brought me out to the airport, stopped at the gate a while, drove me out to the ~~front~~ front - I think it had two loading ramps, one in the back and one in the front.

Cunningham: Yah, that's the one ---

Powers: And hurried me very fast, made me run up the steps into the compartment.

Cunningham: Would you say it was about the size of ~~is~~ a DC 4, C 54, or would it be bigger than that ~~is~~ in your recollection?

Powers: Well it's a good sized aircraft but only two ~~inches~~ ^{feet/inches}.

Cunningham: Yah the inboard mount is --

Powers: Uh - huh built into the wings. I think it's the first jet airplane they've built - or a jet passenger airplane. But I really don't know how big it was. I'd say maybe bigger than a C 54 from looking at it from the outside, the fuselage -

Cunningham: About the size of the 121 you came back in do you think or -

Powers: Oh, I don't think it was quite that long, but - see I couldn't

Powers: see inside, I sat there and ~~x~~ saw it through the car window they had the curtains pulled around but I could see through the front and ah but I feel sure it was a passenger airplane because there were a lot of people in the back and they didn't let anyone come through there.

Cunningham: I gather though they had sent somebody down from Moscow presumably to escort you back had they or -

Powers: Well I don't know where these people - when I got to Sverdlovsk these people were there, and they searched again and that's where they found this needle, this pin.

Cunningham: ~~Ask~~ And they quizzed you did they about ~~the~~ the needle right then and there or did they --

Powers: No, they didn't quiz me about it there - in fact, they were trying to establish who I was and this is the first time they had an interpreter there to speak to.

Cunningham: Good English?

Powers: Not very good, so he wasn't -

Cunningham: Sort of like out in the boondocks you didn't have --

Powers: I think he was a local - probably a local man who just probably a local KDB man that spoke English but he wasn't - it wasn't his job to speak English. He accompanied

Powers: me to Moscow also, there were five of them. One was a military ~~major~~ uniform. I think major or something like that. The other - maybe there were just four, there were just four of them.

Cunningham: Frank let ~~x~~ me ask you one question which I'm sure there will be shades of this question that people will try to ask you for a long time to come but in connection with this which - the fact that you retained the needle there, what did you retain it for?

Powers: Well -

Cunningham: Why did you not throw the whole shabang away?

Powers: Well I thought maybe I might need it.

Cunningham: Did you seriously at any point during that brief interlude consider using it?

Powers: Well I thought about it ~~xxxxxx~~ in the parachute descending and well it's a pretty hard decision to make. The only reason I took the thing was I wanted to be able to retain the thing as ~~xx~~ long as possible and I expected to be tortured, expected - that was the big fear in my ~~xx~~ mind, and I wanted to try to have that in case this stuff got started and I would ~~xx~~ have used it in a case like that.

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1
TOP SECRET

Cunningham: I have a particular interest in that ~~xxxxxx~~ because I sent that out myself just prior to the flight I recall having sent it out ----

Powers: It was - I know we didn't have it very long.

Cunningham: No it was in my safe for several days, and I toyed with the idea of not ~~sacking~~ sending it and then I decided I would after talking with some of the people who were concerned with ~~with~~ making it. And one of the things that we were anxious to get was the opinion from the ~~fix~~ field - ah one of the things we were anxious in getting was the reaction of you pilots to the device since we'd ~~fix~~ already had these other ones out there which I gather weren't to terribly popular.

Powers: No, I think most people refused to carry them.

Cunningham: Yah. There's a humorous antidote I think ~~fix~~ John, which I suppose can go on here about one of the boys who had a habit of eating lemon drops ah this was

[] you remember little [] and ah he used to keep a supply of these with these English lemon drops in his pocket and this was up at -- so he'd sneak

25X1

25X1

TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1

Cunningham: these damn things and climb out you know and pop open and shove it in and shut it up and ~~suck~~ suck on it because he was a guy who used a lot of sugar and when he was descending or anything like that he'd ~~fix~~ fill his mouth with these, well one day he was - he reached in and fortunately for him the drops were ~~rough~~ rough to the touch and he'd even take his damn glove off you know to get them on occasion pick up training flights or anything like that, he wouldn't admit this of course while ~~he~~ he was working for us but on this one particular occasion he reached in and got what he thought was a ~~lemon~~ lemon drop and he was about oh 25,000 feet or something like that and he pulled this thing out and he just ~~happened~~ happened to look at it he said he didn't know why and he hadn't taken his glove off and he looked down and by God it was one of our little friendly devices and was getting set to pop it in and he said ~~to~~ do you know something he said I never sucked those damn drops he said I always chewed them put them in and come right down on - He said I went back and I raised holy ned with ah whoever the entail officer was at that point and ah and I can't even

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1

TOP SECRET

Cunningham: remember, I remember the guy, he was a lieutenant colonel and he said, well [redacted] I thought you'd need it so I put it in your flight suit and ah sneaked it in. Course that was one of the reasons by the way, why we really started reconfiguring this whole concept was knowing that guys eat candy and the damn thing had a configuration like candy. We wanted to get something that was not the same configuration where you actually had to go through a rehearsal in order to use it.

25X1

Powers: We had a briefing on that ---

Cunningham: Did you - you elected this didn't you, you yourself?

Powers: Yes, I chose to take it. Well, it was as [redacted] told us, in case of torture you might want to do this, you might want to use it, if we - and it sounded good to me, I figured that maybe in case of torture I would want to. And the possibility of being able to use it as a weapon he suggested that and --

25X1

Cunningham: Ah I used to - I told Kelly today we were talking about it in the car coming up. I said that it it was sort of a - he'd asked me some questions about it and I said that it was like a hat pin, you could get on the elevator with it

25X1

[redacted]
TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1

30 25X1

Cunningham: and stick some guy in the seat of the pants with it as you were going up and by the time you got to the third floor he'd be through. He said gee that was kind of rapid wasn't it, and I said yah.

Powers: Well I think they estimated in their tests of that ah ah poison I guess it was a minute or something like that.

Cunningham: Yah, that's the outside time. It's all related to blood circulation. How long it takes the blood to get to the heart.

Powers: Oh well, it would have taken just a fraction of mine at that time, my heart was just - but I'd never had any instructions to use it and it'd never been told that it was necessary to use it, it was strictly up to me.

Cunningham: Well this of course was the whole thing which I suspect has not been fully understood by the press, and I'm not sure they wanted to ~~not~~ understand it all the time, was that in a Christian Judaic civilization the concept of mandatory suicide is completely unhospitable with the whole orientation of that particular civilization. I can see why it would ~~xxx~~ perhaps seem more reasonable to them, with their particular views on human life, but

25X1

TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1

31 25X1

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1
TOP SECRET

Cunningham: there - this is the one thing for example when the press would make a hoop-de-do about this, I used to say it's really too bad we can't defend ourselves in some way because it is - it never was intended that it be anything but optional.

Powers: Uh - Huh. Well, that's the instructions I received, could take it or leave it; and I had never had any instruction to if anything happens, you must kill yourself, nothing like that. It was -

Cunningham: I'm sure they wanted to know that though, did they not? As to what kind of instructions you had with this particular -

Powers: They asked uh - huh, and I told them that also, but I don't think they - they probably tried to make it appear that I was supposed to, I don't know, cause that's the way their question went seems to me ~~xxx~~ it was ~~xxx~~ implying that that I was supposed to kill ~~xxx~~ myself and not as I ~~xxx~~ had said optional. And I told them that in case I was tortured I would have used it, I would - and I couldn't stand the tortures and so forth.

That scared ~~me~~ quite a bit because talking to

25X1

he told me that there would definitely be tortures,

25X1

TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1

32
25X1

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1
TOP SECRET

Powers: in fact, now this is - I don't remember just when this briefing came about, but it was either before my flight or Bob's flight ~~existed~~ earlier.

Cunningham: Did you sit in on those briefings, I gather you did most of ~~those~~ the boys ---

Powers: Which briefing ?

Cunningham: Well I mean - say if you were on the barrel but you weren't going to fly the next day but and yet you were on ~~in~~ them for staging like this and there ~~were~~ was a briefing going on on a particular ~~xxxxxx~~ mission with no bar - no particular reason why you couldn't sit in on the mission briefing on that ~~particular~~ particular pilot whoever it was.

Powers: Uh what, wait a minute I don't understand.

Cunningham: Well for example, say that K had been flying the day before and you had been next in line to go, and you know you go in for your consolidated mission briefing, there's no reason why you couldn't sit on that briefing even though you weren't going to be the pilot was there?

25X1

Powers: Well on on our local flights that was all right, but on the others they - only the people concerned. But on my particular flight at one time or the other, every pilot just

25X1

TOP SECRET
Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1

33

25X1

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1
TOP SECRET

Powers: about had gotten briefed on it, I think, except maybe

25X1

[redacted] who couldn't possibly have flown it because he
was to bring it back -- The rest of them - there were

two or three of us, I think two, and I believe it was

25X1

[redacted] no it couldn't - [redacted]
I get - I keep mixing [redacted] up and that's because
we got briefed on the flight just ~~is~~ shortly before that.

25X1

I'm almost positive it was [redacted] and myself. Had the
briefing there of the possible flight groups. This was one
of them, the one that I took. Another was the penetration
coming out toward the Black Sea somewhere, I don't
remember the exact route. And I think that was the two
that we studied, and we were to study the maps and
~~ANNOTATE~~
~~anite~~ information that wasn't on the maps that we put
on there, like an airfield and so forth that would help
us navigate. And both of us did this and part of it was in
my ~~bad~~ handwriting and part of it was in I I'm pretty sure
it was Barnes. They asked me about that because they
had a handwriting expert supposedly although they were
wrong in some cases and they knew that I didn't do all of
this and I told them it was probably the navigator because

25X1

25X1

TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1

34 25X1

Powers: I got briefed just before the flight and I didn't have time to do all of this because I was busy. They ~~k~~ didn't know that I had studied the route maybe a week before.

Cunningham: Did they ever indicate to you in the course of your debriefing Frank, that they were concerned more about this particular flight than about any other one. In other words, any imprints that you could draw from what they said that you were coming close to pay dirt in their estimate by virtue of the fact that you came to Sverdlovsk?

Powers: No, they didn't anything like that. But -

Cunningham: I mean that would have had to have been an slip on their part.

Powers: Um - hum. The only things they said was they waited so long so that they would know what my intentions were I mean they - when I got 1,000 miles in they didn't know I was a spy but when I got 1200 in they did. But when the C 54 got half a mile in or if it was across the border, you know they shot down in Turkey - Turkey ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Reservoir, that was a spy. So I couln't quite correlate that.

Cunningham: Did they ever say anything about the fact that you were

Cunningham: on a more or less single compass heading as being a contributing factor to their ability to get you?

Powers: Oh, this was mentioned. They said they would have gotten me earlier except for my maneuvering, but that is impossible because there are practically all straight lines, but ah -

Cunningham: That's what I mean. Did they - they never said to you that the straight lines made it real easy for us.

Powers: No, but they just said that they would have got me earlier but for my maneuvering. Now the only way that they could have done that earlier would've been all this maneuvering took place in ~~max~~ maybe ten minutes or -

Cunningham: But they if - they were implying that you were doing a dicing mission almost compared to what ~~x~~ you were doing then I ~~xxx~~ gather huh, you know, criss cross, dicing.

Powers: I don't know, they didn't have that on their radar that they showed me, but I think this was a release that they made and I - it was mentioned during the investigation, they ~~x~~ told me that they had me all the time and that they would have shot me down earlier except for my turning but I knew

Powers: that was a lie because ~~therewas~~ there was only - well most of this was straight lines and long straight lines, and just before this particular place there were a couple of pretty good turns and that was within the last maybe 10 or 15 minutes.

Cunningham: Did they ask you why your flight took the particular turn it did and everything, did they ask you about your knowledge of targets beyond Sverdlovsk, and why did you want to go to -- and so forth?

Powers: There was part of the map missing beyond Sverdlovsk. Everything that was noted on the chart, they wanted to know what it was -

Cunningham: You mean all the A B C D -

Powers: Yah, they wanted to know all that, and they very meticulously took down this is a little figure there, elevation took that down -

Cunningham: Your -----

Powers: They took that down, and they had, let's see, it was an interesting point I was going to say, and I forgot.

Cunningham: If ~~you~~ your're getting tired don't push yourself.

Powers: No, I'm not tired but I seem to think of something and

Cunningham: And ah ah it looked like they were just trying to add a little bit of you know -

Powers: Mystery

Cunningham: Cloak and dagger to this whole jazz.

Powers: They - they were very curious about that and I told them I didn't know what it was, they thought maybe it was some some sort of signal, maybe some code in it or, I don't know what they thought. I had them going on that and How would you know who they people were that you were supposed to meet? They - I would know. They would know me, and they'd see the airplane come in or come out and they'd take over the airplane and -

Cunningham: Did they seem at all interested in the composition of the group that was make - meet you, in other words would this be like a staging, in other words ~~other~~ another airplane like the 130s that would be there, what would happen to airplane when it got on the ~~the~~ ground, any of that sort of ~~the~~ thing did they ask about?

Powers: They asked ~~the~~ these things and I only told them that all I know was that I was supposed to go there and land

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1
TOP SECRET

Powers: and that I would be met, and what they did with the airplane after that I had no idea but I knew I wouldn't fly it any farther. And didn't know who would meet me -

Cunningham: Did they ask if you'd have any kind of alternate on account of weather if you got up there and found [redacted] socked in, where would you have gone ?

25X1

Powers: I don't think they did.

Cunningham: And ah ~~walk~~ what's his name -

Powers: Ah let's see.

25X1

Cunningham: [redacted] or any of those didn't come into the act, do you know the other airfields up to the North, [redacted] that we had looked at one time ?

25X1

Powers: I don't believe they~~walk~~ mentioned that at all. - asked or even thought about ~~xxxxxx~~ my landing any where ~~xxxxxx~~ other than there, except in an ~~x~~ emergency. But I can't remember them mentioning ~~it~~ it, an alternate airfield.

25X1

[redacted]
TOP SECRET
Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1

42

25X1

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002200030006-1